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Senate Appropriations Committee Approves Economic Stimulus Legislation

The Senate Appropriations Committee today approved its version of the spending portion of the economic stimulus legislation which includes funding for infrastructure investment programs. Below is a comparison of the funding levels for transportation programs contained in the Senate and House Appropriations Committees' versions of the bill:

	<u>Senate</u>	<u>House</u>
Federal-aid Highway	\$27 B	\$30 B
Discretionary Grants	\$5.5 B	0
Transit Formula Grants	\$8.4 B	\$8 B
TRANSIT New Starts	0	\$1B
Airport Improvement Program	\$1.1 B	\$3 B

The \$27 billion in highway funds will be distributed to states by formula and projects eligible for these funds would be expanded to include stormwater runoff, passenger and freight rail, and ports. Five percent of these funds would also be set aside for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. A significant provision in the Senate bill is the creation of a new Discretionary Grant Program for Surface Transportation Projects funded at \$5.5 billion. States would have to apply for these grant funds which could be used for traditional highway projects, however, priority would go to costly projects that could not be completed without supplemental assistance. Grants would be awarded on a competitive basis. These grant funds would also be eligible for transit, freight and passenger rail, ports and intermodal connections. FHWA would be required to establish the criteria for grant award selections 75 days after enactment of the legislation.

As with the House bill there is a "use or lose" requirement in the Senate bill. States would have to obligate fifty percent of their formula funds within 180 days, at which time unobligated funds would be redistributed to states that used their funds. All formula funds would have to be obligated one year after enactment. Funds not obligated at that deadline would go into the new discretionary grant program, rather than be redistributed to other states as in the House bill.

AGC recommended against the creation of the new discretionary grant program arguing that it would only serve to slow down projects going to bid. When the full Senate considers the bill, Sen. Kit Bond (R-MO) will propose an amendment to strike the grant program provision and instead direct distribution of the \$5.5 billion proportionally to all states.

DETAILED SUMMARY: AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT	
Transportation Infrastructure	
Highway and Bridge Construction	\$30 billion
Transit	
New Construction	\$1 billion
Upgrades and Repair	\$2 billion
Transit Capital Assistance	\$6 billion
Amtrak and Intercity Passenger Rail Construction Grants	\$1.1 billion
Airport Improvement Grants	\$3 billion
TSA Explosive Detection Systems	\$500 million
Coast Guard Bridges	\$150 million
Subtotal, Transportation Infrastructure	\$43.75 billion
Water and Environmental Infrastructure	
Clean Water	
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$6 billion
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$2 billion
Rural Water and Waste Disposal	\$1.5 billion
Water Resources	
Corps of Engineers	\$4.5 billion
Bureau of Reclamation	\$500 million
Watershed Infrastructure	\$400 million
International Boundary and Water Commission	\$224 million
Environmental Cleanup	
Superfund Hazardous Waste Cleanup	\$800 million
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$200 million
Nuclear Waste Cleanup	\$500 million
Closed Military Bases Cleanup	\$300 million
NOAA Habitat Restoration	\$400 million
Brownfields Cleanup	\$100 million
Subtotal, Water and Environmental Infrastructure	\$17.424 billion
Building Infrastructure	
GSA Federal Buildings and Facilities	\$6.7 billion
Border Ports of Entry	\$1.15 billion
Military Construction	
DOD Medical Facilities	\$4.2 billion
DOD Facilities Renovations	\$2.1 billion
Troop Housing	\$1.4 billion
Child Development Centers	\$360 million
Guard and Reserve Facilities	\$400 million
VA Construction	
Veterans Medical Facilities	\$950 million
Veterans Cemeteries	\$50 million
School Construction	

K-12 Schools	\$14 billion
Higher Education Facilities	\$6 billion
Housing Facilities	
Community Development Block Grants	\$1 billion
Public Housing Capital Fund	\$5 billion
Home Investment Partnerships	\$1.5 billion
Native American Housing Block Grants	\$500 million
Self-Help and Assisted Home Ownership Program	\$10 million
Lead Paint Removal	\$100 million
Rural Community Facilities	\$200 million
Other Facilities	
National Science Foundation Facilities	\$600 million
NIH University Research Facilities	\$1.5 billion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Facilities	\$462 million
National Institute of Standards and Technology Grants	\$300 million
Agricultural Research Service Facilities	\$209 million
U.S. Geological Survey Facilities	\$200 million
Social Security Administration Facilities	\$400 million
USDA Facilities	\$44 million
Construction on Public Lands and Parks	\$3.1 billion
National Monuments	\$400 million
Bureau of Indian Affairs Facilities	\$500 million
Indian Health Service Facilities	\$550 million
Community Health Centers	\$1 billion
Subtotal, Building Infrastructure	\$54.885 billion
Workforce Development and Safety	
DOL Worker Protection and Oversight	\$80 million
Training and Employment Services	\$4 billion
Job Corps Facilities	\$300 million
Vocational Rehabilitation State Facilities	\$500 million
Subtotal, Workforce Development and Safety	\$4.88 billion
Energy and Technology	
Wireless and Broadband Grants	\$6 billion
Electricity Grid	\$11 billion
Local Government Energy Efficiency Block Grants	\$6.9 billion
Energy Efficiency Housing Retrofits	\$2.5 billion
Energy Efficiency Grants and Loans for Institutions	\$1.5 billion
Diesel Emissions Reduction	\$300 million
Subtotal, Energy	\$28.2 billion
Total	\$149.139 billion